

THE WAR CRY

AND OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE SALVATION ARMY IN CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

International Headquarters:
301 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

William Booth, Founder.

Canada East Headquarters:
James and Albert Streets, Toronto.

35th Year. No. 15.

Bramwell Booth, General.

TORONTO, JANUARY 12, 1918.

W. J. Richards, Commissioner.

Price Three Cents



PITY THE BLIND!

It is announced that two hundred persons, mostly young women and children, have been rendered totally blind by the Halifax Catastrophe. The above reproduction is of the famous picture by Sir John Mallala, which is in the Birmingham (England) Corporation Art Gallery, and which depicts, in a strikingly pathetic manner, the deprivations of the blind. The colour of the rainbow, the butterfly, and the flowers, and all the changing tints of sun, sky, and clouds do not exist for their sightless eyes.

For all who have been thus afflicted we ask the sympathy and prayers of our readers.

WITH OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN CAMP AND AT THE FRONT.

LETTERS FROM WAR ZONE

A series of interesting communications from Staff-Captain Mary Booth to Her Sister the Late Captain Miriam.

With most Salvation Army Officers, how to get through all that reads doing in the twenty-four hours, is still the puzzle. Often my mind seems to be filled with such small things. Take today, for example. Only placing a few flowers on his grave—it was his birthday, and his mother had especially asked us to do it—almost a couple of hours are gone! Only visiting a hospital some fifteen miles from here in answer to an inquiry from an anxious sister who writes: "Mother is broken-hearted—can you find out how he is?" I found the lad badly wounded, but have been able to relieve the anxiety of his dear ones. I think he will pull through. A few more hours are accounted for. Only a bunch of flowers for a man who is too ill to eat, and only some letters to sign, and the day is all gone!

Prayer Answered

"The last letter to-day is from a mother—her boy has just been killed. I met him for the first time at a Sunday night meeting in camp. I cannot write his story in full, but can give a few facts.

A hurried hand-shake at the close of the meeting, confession that he was not keeping right. Address taken and letter sent to his mother. Again at a convalescent home, I found time he had a glowing face—he had "reconverted" himself to God. Another Sunday—beautiful morning—he is our violinist and is full of faith and zeal—this is our last meeting of him. Up the line—bright letters. In one he writes: "My one and only desire is that I might be spared once again to take up my cross and give him my life," and requests us to send song books and Testaments to distribute amongst his men. Then, a letter from his mother—she says she had a narrow escape from death. "He talks of death," she says, "and has never done so before." As a boy he never would fight, and would not look upon it, so now it is more terrible for him than for some. Then that awful silence—no letter—still no letter—then "Killed in action," and the mother, broken-hearted, writes:—

A Mother's Letter

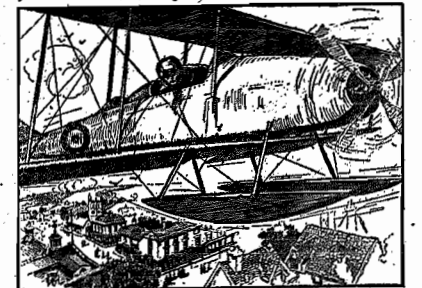
"I got the letter and just read a little—Oh, I cannot describe to you that awful letter, it will always live in my memory. I feel I have nothing to lighten my future, and my heart is full. I thank you personally for all your kindness to him and for the spiritual help you have rendered to him. This is a cold world, only sorrow and anxiety staring you in the face." And so we shall not see him again, and can only commend his dear soul to the Lord. And then, a letter from him, and the many thousands for him in "unknown graves," and then, to-day he lives and to-morrow he dies, and to-morrow he is dead, and to-morrow he lives.

It is a good thing to kneel. It is a weak thing or a man going to kneel, may be, childlike, but it is not childish.

"SPOTTING" FROM A SEAPLANE

Pilot-Officer Seeks Salvation at Army Open-air, Makes a Great Discovery, and Longs to Become a Soul-Winner

HE was a tall, upstanding officer-pilot in the R.N.A.S., and as he sought The Salvation Army Officer's hand he said, "I never fly over this city but I look down seeing the



Hovering Over the Town, the R.N.A.S. Officer Looks for The Army Open-air Meeting

spot where you hold your open-air, and I say to myself, 'Thank God, that's where the burden of my heart rolled away.'

These two had for some time been comrades (says the British "War Cry"), a relationship which had come about in a most interesting manner. One night, in a Scottish city—which, for this article to pass the censor, must be nameless—a crowd of between 300 and 400 people were singing heartily, as was their wont every Saturday night, the songs of Salvation, when the Ensign noticed that among the heartiest of the singers was a naval officer. Presently the man approached the Ensign, and put a pound note into his hand, saying, "My singing has done me good." It was splendid.

At the close of the meeting he again came to the Ensign, gave him his card, and asked if he would correspond with him, as he was very

SAID THEIR PRAYERS

When Order Came to "Go Over the Top."

A Salvationist, one of the many thousands in the fighting line, who was "half-fellow-well-met" with his comrades, and consequently more at ease than the others, was commissioned of their doings, asked the men of his own particular platoon what they had done just before they went "over the top" in face of a pretty hot fire.

"What did I do?" said one. "Why, I did what I guess you did—I said my prayers!"

"So did I," answered another. "A little sheepishly, it is true, but under the spell of the moment, and encouraged by his comrades, he got the frank admission. Thereupon the other members of the platoon, without a single exception, admitted that just on the instant when they were

anxious to get into touch with some spiritual friend. They were regularly written to each other since then, and in one of his last letters the pilot-officer said, "Each time I write you

"Teaching your grandmother to suck eggs, are you?" sneered the sergeant in charge to a Salvationist, who was in the hut. The lad had ventured to protest against the amount of swearing which prevailed. "Don't come it 'ere, young fellow, 'cos I'm continued, 'for it won't help! Why, I'm old enough to be your father, and you tellin' me what I oughter do! An' me a sergeant, too!"

In an open, matter-of-fact way, the lad related how his father and mother, both terrible characters and drunkards to boot, had been won for God by The Salvation Army, and how, during the intervening fifteen years, he had been well cared for and brought up to love God, and, "and," he concluded, "I promised mother and God—perhaps you did the same once, sergeant—that I'd be good and rebuke wrong whenever I saw it. That's why I've spoken."

The sergeant—by the way, he is the friendless, is often appealed to by prisoners to interest themselves in their behalf.

They are often placed in a similar position to that of our Officers found himself in at the Siege of Kimberley in the Boer War, when

BARK WORSE THAN BITE

Plucky Salvationist Stands Up for the Right and Wins Sergeant and Four Others

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CARE OF SOLDIERS' TEETH

The Importance of Dental Surgery Now Recognized.

At the beginning of the present war the dental surgeon, so far as the allies were concerned, was not officially recognized in any circles. Indeed, it was not until the Germans marched into Brussels, with a dental post every ten kilometers, that the allies appreciated the importance of oral hygiene.

To-day there are eleven American dental field ambulances in France alone. Men who were formerly sent home on sick leave, whose only trouble was their molars, are now kept at the front. Soldiers to the number of a division and a half have thus been spared to the army. Furthermore, the surgeons insist that a wounded man with bad teeth makes a slow recovery. And then, too, army rationers are hard to mysticate, so that the man with poor teeth "bols" his food, and loses strength and endurance.

A STRANGE MEETING

Brother Bowle, from "Somewhere in the East," writes to the Egyptian "War Cry": "I generally pass my copy on to two Salvationists, and I don't doubt the Captain is a man of deep joy when this trophy was captured, but how much greater we imagine is the joy of a spiritual parent and child on meeting in that glorious world."

The Salvation Army has a very considerable experience in dealing with both male and female delinquents in this country, and has for many years been acquainted with Adult Probation in various forms. We are fully convinced of its usefulness both to the young men and women who have been led astray through bad surroundings, from being branded as criminals and also those who have been inspired from continuing in crime.

Two Forms of Probation

The two forms of Adult Probation present in vogue in Canada are: 1. The Suspended Sentence. 2. Release on Parole.

Both of these systems serve, even in their present form, a very useful purpose, but with certain alterations in the laws governing same, could, in my opinion, be made still more effective. I will deal with the parole question first.

The parole system is an arrangement by which a prisoner who has served at least half his sentence can be released upon some responsible person or body undertaking to answer for his or her good behaviour. Our experience, however, is that at least 90% of the prisoners in our parole system are good for nothing but trouble to the community. The parole system is an arrangement by which a prisoner who has served at least half his sentence can be released upon some responsible person or body undertaking to answer for his or her good behaviour. Our experience, however, is that at least 90% of the prisoners in our parole system are good for nothing but trouble to the community.

"THE OLD SERGEANT"

Brother Nicholson, a Men's Social Trophy at Montreal, Goes Home to Glory.

A familiar figure has been removed from the Men's Social Department in Montreal, by the promotion to Glory of Sergeant D. Nicholson, who passed away at the Royal Victoria Hospital on Friday, Dec. 14th, after being a patient there for nearly five months.

Our comrade—famously called "Old Sergeant"—was an interesting personality. Standing about six feet four, erect, with white hair and whiskers, he presented a striking appearance in his uniform. Men who have travelled in the parts of the world, had a warm regard for the deceased, even if they sometimes resented his discipline.

Monument of Saving Grace

It was a monument of saving grace and a tribute to Salvation Army methods in dealing with the extraordinary cases; the methods in his case being exercised by the now-famous Dr. W. A. Wilkinson. Without doubt the Captain was a man of deep joy when this trophy was captured, but how much greater we imagine is the joy of a spiritual parent and child on meeting in that glorious world.

Major Southall conducted the funeral service on Sunday afternoon at Wray's Chapel (the undertakers).

ADULT PROBATION

An Address Recently Given by Commissioner Charles Sowton at the Manitoba Social Welfare Congress in Winnipeg

The members of various churches were asked to place themselves under the care of their respective ministers, who would attend to their needs and arrange for the distribution of their right rations. After those of each Church had done so, there was still a large number left.

The Salvation Army Officer shouted out, "All you chaps that belong to nobody come with me!" The prisoners that belong to nobody form a very numerous part of our jail population. After interviewing the prisoner and forming an idea of the worthiness of the case, application must be made to the Government Parole Officer, who consults the Magistrate who gave the sentence and the Warden of the prison, and if the reports received are fairly satisfactory, the prisoner is released on parole for the unexpired period of his sentence.

Met on Discharge

One of our Officers meets the prisoner on discharge from prison and they are taken to one of our Homes, where they are kept for a short time until suitable employment can be found for them. We endeavour to keep in touch with them for the whole of the period of their parole, and often, beyond this period, and constantly help and help him, and also urge them to seek that Power from Above which alone can

change their hearts and lives. I thought it might be of interest to quote the following as examples from this Province:— 1.—Was sentenced to a term of five years. After serving one-half of that sentence he was released on parole. During the interview he had with our Officer in the penitentiary he expressed his determination to live a straight life. The first step he took after being liberated was to ask the Officer to marry him to the mother of his two children. That was two years ago, and he has gone straight ever since. He has a splendid position in the City of Winnipeg to-day.

M.—Was sentenced seven years ago to fourteen years' imprisonment and received a number of lashes. The Army two years ago became interested in him, and through personal attention succeeded in creating in him a desire to live a better life. We made investigation as to his life before he fell into the hands of the law, and found that the influence of his younger days was very detrimental to good living. In fact, he had been a bad influence in the household of his childhood home. We made several appeals to the Minister of Justice for parole, but he was not at last successful. He is doing, and has done, splendidly, and to-day is wearing khaki.

Sergeant Bloomfield referred to the personal loss sustained by the removal of his old friend and comrade, Adjutant Turner, and Captain and Major, supported the Major in the service.

Laid to Rest

A pale sun shed a silvery sheen over the landscape on Monday, causing myriads of snow diamonds to scintillate in the zero atmosphere. The wound in the white bosom of Mother Earth seemed almost ruthless, but it was the spot in Mount Royal Cemetery where the remains of our comrade were to rest in peace until the "trumpet" tones proclaim the fulfilment of the commitment at the grave. The burial and the hope of meeting him again on the Resurrection Morning—J. F. S.

POOR OF HAMILTON

Were Provided with Christmas Cheer—Good Times at Social Institutions and at Jail.

"Business as Usual" is the motto of "The Salvation Army," says the Hamilton "Herald." It links to their energies, the poor of this city did not go without a Christmas dinner.

"For the past week the 'iron pots' were hanging on tripods along the main streets of the city, and the Salvationists, tinged the bells to good effect. In consequence, on Christmas, many of our poor neighbours received a Christmas dinner. The Salvation Army. The baskets were well filled with good things,

The weaknesses of the parole system, however, are:—

(a) That the parole prisoners have to report themselves to the Chief of Police once a month, which increases their difficulty in getting away from their past.

(b) They are discharged, after several years in the penitentiary, with a new outfit of clothing, but only \$5 in cash with which to face the world; and if, for instance, they are released at the beginning of a month and get a job, say, at one of the railroads, they have to wait nearly six weeks before they draw their first pay, and unless they have some organization like The Salvationists, stand at the back of them, the chances are very great that they will again lapse into crime.

Some Suggestions

We would, therefore, suggest that the law be amended to make it possible for an approved organization or body who had undertaken to be responsible for the prisoner's good behaviour, to report to the police on his or her behalf and thus make it unnecessary for the person paroled to do so themselves. We would further suggest that the prisoners be allowed to accumulate to their credit from their labours while in prison, a sum of from thirty to fifty cents per month, which the organization taking responsibility for them could draw upon for their needs as required, and there would then be money available for the prisoner until they had received their first month's pay. There are some other respects in which the parole law might be amended, but these are mentioned as very important ones. (To be continued)

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Provided for Eighty-five Men at Toronto Industrial.

Eighty-five men partook of The Army's Christmas dinner at the Day at the Toronto Industrial Department. The pleasure it gave to attend to the feeding of those who were there was indeed a reward worth while.

The men were all loud in their praise of the well-filled tables, and the pleasure of eating their Christmas dinner in a room so nicely decorated, and so comfortable. The men started to make everything appear like the old-fashioned Christmas festivities.

Major Jennings, in the absence of Lieut.-Colonel Hargrave, presided. After the dinner, the Major, on behalf of the Industrial Department, spoke to the men and assured them of The Army's continual interest in them.

At 5 p.m. a dinner was provided for our employees and their families. Although some could not get there, yet we numbered fifty-seven. After the dinner, the party went to the Working Men's Home, where a splendid programme was given, of recitations, dialogues, etc. Then Santa Claus came to give to each child a present from the tree, not forgetting the older folks, who all got something.

OFFICIAL ORDER

WEEKLY DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE EMPIRE

Provincial and Divisional Commanders, and all Officers in charge of Corps, are instructed to arrange for the holding of a weekly Prayer Service on behalf of the Empire, to follow the Day of Prayer called for by the King.

WARCRY
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EDITORIAL NOTES

Sympathy and Prayer

IT WILL BE in accordance with the wishes of all our readers, we are sure, that our first word this week should be to the men and women with the General and Mrs. Booth in connection with the Promotion to the rank of Captain.

It will, we are equally sure, be the prayer of all that the God of all comfort and grace may Himself console them and give the support they need to sustain them under this trial in undiminished power of mind, body, and soul for the great work He has committed to their hands.

In the passing of the Captain; the whole Salvation Army is made the poorer, at any rate it appears to be so, so far as our finite knowledge of the affairs of the Kingdom of God can carry us, for though she was laid upon a bed of weakness and suffering, through her writings her influence was already making itself felt far and wide.

The story of the Promoted Captain's brief, but so full of life, is told at length on another page of this issue, has several messages, and will repay close study, but one which stands out in some respects above all others is that contained in the verse with which her biographer concludes her story—

Wake up the world—let it be left for you
Fill up the place—it is offered, too
Time is quickly flying, God for warriors
Tryings!

Will not your duty do?

Faith and Healing

A REFERENCE to faith and the course of the development of the Captain's last days, may with propriety, we think, in these days when the great stress is so often laid upon secondary issues, draw to our attention special attention. In the form of an extract from a letter, it is as follows:

...the (Faith) is a difficult question. I have been very much helped by reading Hebrews 11. It seems to me that in all the instances given to us of manifested power in bodily healing (verse 8), implicit faith (verse 9), persevering affliction (verse 10), and (verse 11), in other similar ways, when we are called to alter their circumstances in any way.

I think the best lesson to us in things when we are called to alter their circumstances in any way, is that we must be sure that we are doing it for the right reasons, and not for the wrong ones. We must be sure that we are doing it for the right reasons, and not for the wrong ones. We must be sure that we are doing it for the right reasons, and not for the wrong ones.

—the request, "if it be possible let this cup pass from Me," the supreme act of faith—Nevertheless not My will but Thine be done."

Every Man, Everywhere,
All the Time!

THE outline of the plans for the coming Winter Campaign in Canada East should be under study by all Salvation Soldiers, as well as Officers. Much, it will be seen, is being left to local initiative. It is going to be essentially a battle in which adaptation to local needs will be the ruling spirit.

But while the manner of the application of force and method will be governed by the requirements of the immediate situation, there should be no variation in degree of effort or departure from the old principle of every man, everywhere, at his best for God and souls all the time!

Important as are plans, and necessary as it is to have leaders, the victory will not be won by these only. First and foremost there must be a spirit of prayer, of blessing, and empowerment. Then every man and every woman—and every Jew—to do his or her part or something which might be gained will be lost.

Snow-Shovelers and Wall-builders.
IN a very literal sense we have at our disposal an illustration of what can be accomplished by every one doing their "little bit." One of the things that at the present season makes a regular daily work of the city is the effective clearance of the sidewalks after a snowstorm, which is secured by the requirement that every citizen should clear the fall from before his own house.

When Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem, walls to shut out the enemy were quickly and substantially rebuilt by every man according to the portion before his own house.

The principle of snow-shovelling, applied to the Jerusalem wall-building, brings to the mind of the reader a record of victory. Right in front of every Salvation Soldier is some definite, conscientiously performed, will help to make the full clearance of hindrances and evil which all desire, and to erect walls of righteousness which will for ever keep the enemy out.

Repentance as Well as Prayer

PRAYER arrangement which, following the King's call for a Day of Prayer, has been made for the holding of a Prayer Meeting every day at all Corps, at which petition will be made for the welfare of the Empire, and the work of God in this life, in the case of nations, as well as of individuals. There are sin of individuals. There are sin of individuals. There are sin of individuals.

Confession of sin and repentance. These are essential to obtaining the work of God. This is the case of nations, as well as of individuals. There are sin of individuals. There are sin of individuals. There are sin of individuals.

Each Week Night—Salvation of the souls of the living and the dead. Each Week Night—Salvation of the souls of the living and the dead. Each Week Night—Salvation of the souls of the living and the dead.

The Winter Campaign

FEBRUARY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE—MARCH FOR THE SENIOR EFFORTS

Commissioner Richards Calls Upon Divisional Commanders and Corps Officers to Plan the Details of a Great Spiritual Awakening and Soul-Saving Offensive

SOME SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES FOR THE GREAT "PUSH"

THE PLAN of CAMPAIGN for the Winter Offensive is rapidly taking shape. The special feature this year is the large extent to which it is to be committed to the man on the spot.

The Divisional Commanders in Canada East have already been informed by Commissioner Richards that, relying upon their knowledge of local conditions, the details of the Campaign be left for them to decide upon in Council with the Corps Officers, so that while all will be called upon to put forth a supreme effort to make the very greatest of the two months, and certain broad lines are laid down by way of suggestion, local needs and local opportunities will determine the precise lines of the "Push" will follow.

February will be given over to the Young People. During this month the campaign will be directed by the Divisional Commanders. During this month the campaign will be directed by the Divisional Commanders.

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dians to be selected, and as effort be made not only to foster what we have but to increase the number.

5. Increase in the number of Life-Saving Scouts and Guards, together with determined efforts to secure a greater number of efficient leaders.

6. The whole effort to finish with a Junior Annual, when both in Senior and Junior meetings a further effort should be made to get the Young People to decide for Christ.

7. The development of Home Companies in places where it is too far for children to come to the Army Hall.

The following dates give a skeleton outline which should be worked out by the local committees.

Sunday, February 3rd—Rally Day.
Sunday, 10th—Decision Sunday.
Sunday, 17th—Prayer Day.
Sunday, 24th—Young People's Rally Day (Sunday).

Monday, 25th—The Distribution of Prizes.
For the month of March the following dates are suggested for the work while "The War Cry" for these weeks will concentrate upon the subjects named, in order to provide for the most effective use of the subject to revision to meet local requirements, with the single exception of Sunday, March 17th, which is to be devoted to the "Candidates' Sunday" in every Corps.

service as Nurses and Workers in our Social Institutions; and for Field Corps Work in Canada.

Prayer Meetings—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights for young men and women to seek and pray for guidance and help to decide their choice for life service as soul-winners.

FOURTH WEEK
Recruits and Soldier-Making
Sunday, March 24th—Subject: Soldiering in The Salvation Army. Its privileges, principles and rewards.

CAPTAIN MIRIAM BOOTH
Message of Sympathy and the Reply of The General and Mrs. Booth

Immediately on learning of the death of Captain Miriam Booth, Commissioner Richards cabled to The General and Mrs. Booth assurance of his sympathy and prayers for all comrades. In response the following message has been received:

"Received assurances of affection and confidence. We stand together by the Cross; more needed, more potent, more glorious than ever."

"GENERAL AND MRS. BOOTH."

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR THE EMPIRE

THE TEMPLE (Toronto)
From 12.10 to 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 6—COMMISSIONER RICHARDS.
Tuesday, 15—Brigadier Morris.
Tuesday, 22—Brigadier Bell.
Tuesday, 29—Brigadier Adley.
THE PUBLIC ARE CORTEOUSLY WELCOMED

PARAGRAPHETTES

PERSONAL AND NEWSY

INTERNATIONAL
The Chief of the Staff conducted the last number of the "War Cry" as an international Training Camp.

Presenting at a lecture given by Sir John Macdonald, President of the Royal Society of Arts, the Right Hon. Walter Long (Secretary of State for the Colonies) said a high and noble work done by the Empire by The Salvation Army's Emigration Department.

General Unsworth has been under a great strain, but lately the British "Cry" is going on well.

The promotion to the rank of Lieutenant of Brigadier Elphinstone (Military Work in France) is greeted.

CANADA EAST
Commissioner and Mrs. Richards, General and Mrs. Booth, visited the Toronto Children's Home on Saturday, Dec. 10, and stayed in the home's pleasure area a Christmas Tree.

Colonel Mrs. Macdonald and Lieutenant and Mrs. Booth visited the home on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and part in a happy visit meeting with the children.

Motto for 1918—"Go Forward!"

GIVEN BY COMMISSIONER RICHARDS AT TORONTO
TEMPLE WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE

More Prayer! More Bible! More Faith! More Fighting!

WATCH-NIGHT services were held at the Toronto Corps, that at the Temple being given by the Commissioner. While the New Year was boisterously greeted outside, within the walls of our various Citadel men and women knelt in silent prayer, answering voices consecrated to the service of God and "Others," and seeking the Divine guidance and empowerment for the battles of the coming year.

Nor were the absent ones forgotten. No petitions were more fervent than those which ascended to the Throne of Grace on behalf of the "Boys" overseas, that they might be kept from all evil and given victory in all their doings. Heartfelt were the prayers for the coming of the peace which shall be righteous and satisfactory, and put an end for all time to the cruel and bloody hand of nation against nation.

Freedom in prayer and testimony marked the earlier stages of the Temple engagement. Under the leadership of the Commissioner, overflowing hearts put on record their gratitude for past blessing and their supply of present and future needs.

The Chief Secretary found ready response to his call for witness to God's work. One comrade said he was as happy as he thought it was possible for him to be. "He looks ill," commented the Colonel—and he was right. A feature was the number of testimonies given by comrades who were evidently sons of toil, men who have to live on Salvation in the midst of a world of sin and suffering, which put it to the strictest test; but whose faces were even further than their honest-ringing words in the power of their blessing.

Brigadier Bell read a most suitable Scripture lesson (Heb. 10:19-24). Brigadier Adley closed the service with a benediction from Jesus, and then the Commissioner gave his address.

Christmas season only as a time of feasting, lulling, and gift-giving, the new year should be a time of opportunity of giving thanks to God and trying to help others.

Lieut.-Colonel Rees referred to the many Christmas letters he had sent in God's service, and exhorted all to a fuller trust in God.

The words of the Commissioner were particularly addressed to those of her hearers who were yet unconverted. He spoke of the wonderful transforming power of God, and exhorted the unsaved to turn from the ways of the transgressor and follow Jesus. "May the command be one of the best known because you have given your hearts to God," she concluded.

The old story of the "Soldier of the Cross" was told by the Commissioner in his own original and interesting way. The main lesson to be derived from his talk may be briefly summed up thus: (1) The Lord never expects you to do more than you can do. (2) Do all you can to show your gratitude to God; and (3) Jesus deserves the best we can give Him—He wants the best period of our lives.

The time for action has come, he urged. Some people, he said, prayed too long and did too little, and while it was also wrong to do the opposite, there was a time when, valuing by faith a step at a time, advance, even though faced by difficulties that seemed as impassable as a sea, was the only way for a stricken city.

The coming year, the Commissioner went on to say, should certainly be one of progress in respect to Christian knowledge, character, and work, a time when God's people, increasing their own knowledge of Him and capacity for doing His will, should go forward to accomplish for the bodies and souls of the people more than ever before.

"Co-operation in shaking ourselves up" was the subject of one of the Commissioner's most urgent appeals. More prayer, more Bible, more knowledge of Christ, and other points in the characteristic and forceful exhortation with which he brought his audience up to within five minutes of the striking of the midnight hour. Then, as already stated, the passing of the old year and the coming in of the new found its expression in solemn and earnest consecration.

The Commissioner concluded this helpful Watch-night with a special prayer for the absent ones, and he petitioned, "to be as brave and as willing to sacrifice and to deny ourselves for others during 1918 as we were in 1917."

"A happy New Year to you all!" was his final benediction.

COMMISSIONER RICHARDS

Meets Officers and inmates of Toronto Women's Hospital

THERE was a very happy little family gathering at the Toronto Women's Hospital on the night of Friday, Dec. 14, when the Commissioner and Mrs. Richards and several invited Officers had dinner with Major Jost and the Hospital Staff.

The proceedings were of the most cheerful and pleasant character, and were apparently "quite at home," and appreciated and enjoyed to the full by the Commissioner's visit. The spirit of the Christmas season was in the place and largely influenced the thoughts of the various speakers.

Brigadier Morris piloted the first part of the meeting, in which the Commissioner, Brigadier Morris, and Brigadier Adley each had their place. All the Officers of the Hospital Staff gave their part in the service.

The Master of the House, the Matron, and the staff were glad that early in life her feet had been directed into the pathway of useful service. The Master, Mrs. Jost, said that she had been saved from wasting her time in self-seeking ways.

Christmas season only as a time of feasting, lulling, and gift-giving, the new year should be a time of opportunity of giving thanks to God and trying to help others.

Lieut.-Colonel Rees referred to the many Christmas letters he had sent in God's service, and exhorted all to a fuller trust in God.

The words of the Commissioner were particularly addressed to those of her hearers who were yet unconverted. He spoke of the wonderful transforming power of God, and exhorted the unsaved to turn from the ways of the transgressor and follow Jesus. "May the command be one of the best known because you have given your hearts to God," she concluded.

The old story of the "Soldier of the Cross" was told by the Commissioner in his own original and interesting way. The main lesson to be derived from his talk may be briefly summed up thus: (1) The Lord never expects you to do more than you can do. (2) Do all you can to show your gratitude to God; and (3) Jesus deserves the best we can give Him—He wants the best period of our lives.

HALIFAX DISASTER

THE SALVATION ARMY CONTINUES TO ASSIST IN RELIEF WORK

Letters of Appreciation of Help from Local Authorities.

Brigadier and Mrs. Beldridge, Major and Mrs. Crichton, with their assistants, are continuing to carry on the work of assisting to provide for the needs of the people who were rendered homeless and require food and shelter as a result of the Halifax catastrophe.

The following letters, addressed to Lieut.-Colonel Hargrave and Brigadier Miller, respectively, give an indication of how very greatly the work of The Salvation Army in connection with the disaster has been appreciated by the local authorities. Brigadier Miller has left Toronto again for a strictly official duty.

"My Dear Colonel Hargrave—On the eve of your departure from Halifax allow me, on behalf of the Relief Committee and our suffering people, to express our deep appreciation of the grand work you have done, together with your noble band of tireless Officers, in helping to alleviate the sufferings of the injured and in searching out and seeing that the wants of the needy were supplied."

"Thanking you again most sincerely and wishing you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year."

"Yours truly,
"R. T. MACLEITHRE,
Chairman, Halifax Relief Committee."

"Dear Mr. Miller—I only learned to-day of your return to Toronto, and I am glad that you had not the opportunity of thanking you for your valuable services while you were in Halifax."

"I am sure that you that we all appreciated your work, and I do not know how we could have managed till the demands if it had not been for your help."

"Trusting that we will again have the good fortune of seeing you."

"Yours very truly,
"W. S. D. IDSON,
Chairman, Executive Emergency Shelter Committee."

COMMISSIONER JEFFRIES

NOW IN CANADA ON HIS WAY TO NORTH CHINA

Will Address Meetings in Montreal and Toronto.

Commissioner Jeffries has safely reached Halifax on his journey to his new Command in North China, and at the S. S. "Dovercourt," which is to be conducted by Commissioner Richards.

On Sunday our visitor will be welcomed by the Officers and on Friday night will take part in the Portland Street Hall have reports of their interesting meetings, together with a character sketch and portrait of the Commissioner.

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A Strange Mixture

by metaphysics. Hindus believe that there are an immense number of gods. Different gods are held in honour in different parts of the country, and among different classes of people, who believe that they are under the protection of this or that particular god. Some of these gods are worshipped with strange rites—many of them too hideous to describe in these columns.

Caste is that Hindu system by which the accident of birth deter-

There were originally four chief divisions or castes: The Brahmins comprising the priests and teachers; the warriors, whose business it was to fight and rule; the traders, supposed to engage in some commercial pursuit; and the Sudras (or base born), who are required to serve the superior

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for classes and perform all tasks considered by these to be beneath their dignity. Beneath these we find the depressed classes of India—known as "outcasts," the "untouchables," "pariahs—who are outside the Hindu pale.

Thousands of Castes

The first-named caste (the Brahmans) has been gradually split up into an immense number of groups and sub-groups, and these, for matrimonial and other purposes, are classified in the most intricate fashion.

ion. In one province alone there are 200 major groups of Brahmans, none of which allow intermarriage, and below these there is an immense number of lower castes. The census enumerates over 2,300 minor castes.

That caste has certain advantages we cannot deny, but the practices of infant marriage and perpetual widowhood, the treatment of widows, and the outcasts, leave it self-condemned.

having outlined some of the outstanding features of Indian life. Enough has been said to give some idea of the difficulties that have to be faced by those who go there to spread the Gospel which proclaims

the Fatherhood of God; a living personal, Divine Saviour; Salvation from all sin, here and now; regeneration by the Spirit of God, and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost.

WHAT TO DO

(2) Cut them out and keep them by you. Think about them, talk about them, and make notes of the points that strike you.

start on your essay, and be sure it is posted in time to reach the Territorial Headquarters on the date which will be given.

See "A Voice from the Dead"—Page 2.

COMING EVENTS

Make Money Orders and Cheques payable to The Salvation Army

MRS. T. HIRD (No. 11165). Missing for over a year. Last known to be on Erie Terrace, Gerard Street.